UNCLAS LIMA 004407

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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PGOV PINR PE
SUBJECT: REGIONAL ELECTIONS: OAS CONFIDENT OF SMOOTH PROCESS

REF: A. LIMA 4366

¶B. LIMA 4271

¶1. Peruvians will return to the polls on November 19 to elect
regional presidents and provincial and district mayors. The
OAS Election Observation Mission (EOM) will send 33 observers
(including 9 U.S. Embassy volunteers) around the country to
witness the process and receive any citizen complaints,
should they arise. OAS Deputy Mission Chief Betilde Munoz
told Poloffs they expect the election to proceed without
major irregularities.

¶2. Munoz identified three pre-election concerns. First, the
OAS has shared complaints that some political party lists
fail to meet gender and youth quotas with Peruvian electoral
authorities. (Note: A new law requires that at least 20
percent of candidates on party lists be between the ages of
18 and 29, while an earlier law aimed at ensuring a minimum
participation of women requires that at least 30 percent of
candidates be of each gender. End Note.) Munoz said that
the electoral authority in charge of resolving legal issues
(JNE) deferred these complaints to the decentralized
Specialized Elections Board (JEE), and it remained unclear
how they will resolve these complaints. Second, the OAS
mission has received reports that some parties intend to send
voters to specific municipalities where elections are close
in an attempt to tip the balance. Third, the OAS has heard
rumors of narcotraffickers intimidating residents from voting
in coca-growing areas.

¶3. Despite these concerns, Peruvian election authorities and
the OAS believe the elections will be free, transparent, and
generally problem-free.
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